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LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ALGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement issued on 14 February 1991 by the Office of the President of the Republic. I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amar BENDJAMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Statement issued on 14 February 1991 by the Office of the President of the Republic

"The savage bombing raids carried out daily by the coalition forces against Iraqi towns and cities yesterday hit with particular ferocity a shelter in which residents of the Amiriyah residential district of Baghdad had taken refuge as usual. This deliberate attack killed hundreds of people, most of them women and children.

Algeria indignantly censures and vigorously condemns this vile act, for which the coalition forces must take full responsibility.

This massacre reveals the true nature of the war being waged against the Iraqi people, which today has escalated from an operation designed to systematically destroy Iraq's economic and military potential to an actual war of extermination.

Algeria resolutely denounces the intentions of certain Powers to try to impose their new order by fire and bloodshed. It also denounces the complicity of certain Arab countries, who are thus lending support to a genocidal campaign against a fraternal people.

At this tragic time, Algeria shares the sorrow of the Iraqi people, bows to the memory of the many victims, salutes the determination and heroism of the Iraqi people in their resistance to aggression and pledges them its complete solidarity in this fight for honour and dignity.

Algeria wishes to recall that the intervention by the coalition forces, perpetrated under the cover of international law is, in reality, a campaign of all-out destruction which, through the massacre of innocents, is assuming the dimensions of a crime against humanity.

Far from contributing to the restoration of law and justice, such an excessive deployment and show of force simply reflects aggressive, hegemonistic intentions which totally contravene the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Algeria wishes to emphasize that those who today claim to be acting in the name of international legality have even twisted the decisions of the Security Council relating to the Gulf crisis. The military adventure on which the coalition forces have embarked can in no circumstances be justified on the basis of either international law or humanitarian conventions, still less morality.

Algeria solemnly appeals to the Security Council to finally assume its responsibilities with regard to the serious deterioration of the situation in the Gulf and to call immediately for a cease-fire so that a process of dialogue and negotiation can begin, based on the relevant principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

It appeals to the Secretary-General to make full use of the prerogatives conferred on him by the Charter, with a view to hastening a cease-fire and making a decisive contribution to the restoration of peace.

Algeria is confident that all peace-loving peoples, in particular the Arab and Muslim peoples, will show a sense of responsibility and join together in an effort to end a conflict which is threatening international peace and security.

The Algerian people, who daily pledge their fraternal solidarity with Iraq, will be capable of mobilizing still further in a tangible demonstration of their support for the heroic struggle of the fraternal people of Iraq. In so doing, they will prove once again that they remain unswervingly committed to the noble values which guided them in their glorious liberation struggle and that they will not shrink from any sacrifice in providing support and assistance whenever a people is fighting for dignity, freedom and independence."